Home Economics Literacy
Professor Donna Pendergast
multiliteracy
1. The variability of meaning making in different cultural, social or domain-specific contexts
2. Meaning is made in multimodal ways
Home Economics can be clarified by four dimensions or areas of practice:

- as an **academic discipline** to educate new scholars, to conduct research and to create new knowledge and ways of thinking for professionals and for society.
- as an **arena for everyday living** in households, families and communities for developing human growth potential and human necessities or basic needs to be met.
- as a **curriculum area** that facilitates students to discover and further develop their own resources and capabilities to be used in their personal life, by directing their professional decisions and actions or preparing them for life.
- as a **societal arena to influence and develop policy to advocate for individuals, families and communities to achieve empowerment and wellbeing, to utilise transformative practices, and to facilitate sustainable futures.**

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**Essential Dimensions of Home Economics**

The thread or essential ingredient that all subjects, courses of study and professionals identifying as home economists must exhibit has at least three essential dimensions:

- a focus on fundamental needs and practical concerns of individuals and family in everyday life and their importance both at the individual and near community levels, and also at societal and global levels so that wellbeing can be enhanced in an ever changing and ever challenging environment;
- the integration of knowledge, processes and practical skills from multiple disciplines synthesised through interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary inquiry and pertinent paradigms; AND
- demonstrated capacity to take critical/ transformative/ emancipatory action to enhance wellbeing and to advocate for individuals, families and communities at all levels and sectors of society.

Ensuring the interplay of these dimensions of Home Economics is the basis upon which the profession can be sustained into the future. Because of these attributes, Home Economics is distinctively positioned to collaborate with other professionals.
What is Home Economics?

of individuals & families
Home Economics Literacy Model

**Essential Dimensions**
- Fundamental needs and practical concerns of individuals & families
- Multidisciplinary integration
- Transformative action

**Areas of Practice**
- Academic discipline
- Everyday living
- Curriculum area
- Society & Policy
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consumer Literacy</th>
<th>Needs of individuals &amp; families</th>
<th>Multidisciplinary integration</th>
<th>Transformative action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Discipline</td>
<td>Identify gaps in food labelling research</td>
<td>Investigate, graphic design, nutrition knowledge, branding conventions</td>
<td>Propose new labelling conventions to meet the needs of food decision makers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyday Living</td>
<td>Selection of household products and services</td>
<td>Use scientific processes to analyse product service qualities</td>
<td>Empower individuals to make decisions about product and service selection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum Area</td>
<td>Identify consumer rights and responsibilities as a core learning area</td>
<td>Incorporate content from a range of knowledge bases (e.g. finance and budgeting)</td>
<td>Empower students to exercise their rights through a practical application</td>
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<tr>
<td>Society &amp; Policy</td>
<td>Access consumer policy documents for individuals and families</td>
<td>Consider the breadth of policies related to consumer law</td>
<td>Provide advice as a consumer advocate on a government committee</td>
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| Academic Discipline | 1 | 2 |
| Everyday Living | 3 | 5 | 7 |
| Curriculum Area | 6 | 8 | 10 |
| Society & Policy | 9 | 11 | 12 |
What is in the International Journal of Home Economics?

- consumers
- food
- people & families
- social
- education
- school
- home economics
- the profession
- clothing
- human needs
- the profession
Bring back Home Ec

Why now?
Bring back Home Ec
Health Literacy
Individuals and family
wellbeing
wellbeing
Take the Best
in
guiding
fundamental needs & practical concepts of individuals & families
multidisciplinary integration of knowledge & skills
transformative action for wellbeing of all

Home Economics Literacy Model

HELM

Essential Ingredients

Areas of Practice

academic discipline
everyday living
curriculum area
policy development
Best Practice is an approach which asserts that there is a technique, method or process that is more effective at delivering a particular outcome than any other technique, method, process. When data supports the success of a practice, it is referred to as an evidence-based practice.

Home Economics Literacy brings together the features of Best Practice in Home Economics. The question is, where is the evidence we are incorporating the Essential Dimensions?
Using the Home Economics Literacy Model to inform Best Practices

1. A clear and common focus
2. High standards and expectations
3. Strong leadership
4. Supportive, personalised and relevant
5. Community involvement
6. Monitoring, accountability and assessment
7. Curriculum and instruction unique to the field
8. Professional development
9. Time and structure

According to researchers who have argued for best practice models, there are nine evidence sources.
Ask yourself...

For each of the 9 evidence based features of home economics practice, what is the nature of the evidence being collected to determine its effective implementation and how is it being used?

What is the evidence base that Home Economics Literacy is being achieved? HELM
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